

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-01 INR-10 SP-02 /043 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GDESANTILLANA/ARA/PPC:WDIETERICH
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:ACHEWITT
ARA/CAR:RJSURBER

-----040517 131335Z /64 R

P 131254Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149354

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PEPR, DR

SUBJECT: EL CARIBE COMPLAINT AGAINST EMBASSY
SANTO DOMINGO

REFERENCE: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 3131;
(B) KINGSTON 4533

1. THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH THE COMMENTS SUGGESTED BY
AMBASSADOR YOST (REF A) FOR A RESPONSE TO OLIVER CLARKE.
WE BELIEVE PARAGRAPH FOUR OF THE SUGGESTED COMMENTS
SHOULD BE MODIFIED, HOWEVER, TO SUBSTITUTE "TOTAL U.S.
POSITION" FOR "TRUE U.S. POSITION", AND TO DELETE THE
SECOND SENTENCE.

2. IN ANY ORAL DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER WITH CLARKE, YOU
MAY ALSO WISH TO MENTION WE THINK IT SURPRISING THAT A
PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION,
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A MAN WHO HAS MAINTAINED EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH HIS
AMERICAN COLLEAGUES OVER THE YEARS, WOULD VIEW THE OBVIOUS
PREFERENCE OF THE USG FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ANY
COUNTRY AS "INTERFERENCE" IN THAT COUNTRY'S INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. IT IS EVEN MORE SURPRISING HE WOULD PASS ON
UNSUBSTANTIATED AND COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED RUMORS THAT THE
USG INTENDED TO TAKE SOME SORT OF RETALIATORY ACTION

AGAINST ANY NEWSPAPER. MR. ORNES IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH
THE U.S. TRADITION OF RESPECT FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.
WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT HIS STRONG REACTION AGAINST THE
USG'S CLEAR POSITION IN THE RECENT DOMINICAN ELECTORAL
CRISIS FAVORING RESPECT FOR FREE ELECTIONS STEMS FROM
DISAGREEMENT WITH THAT POSITON.

3. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RESPOND ALONG LINES OF POINTS
SUGGESTED REF A AND PARA TWO ABOVE, AS APPROPRIATE
TO ANY INQUIRIES ON MR. ORNES'S COMPLAINT WE MAY RECEIVE
HERE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, NEWSPAPERS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, EMBASSIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE149354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GDESANTILLANA/ARA/PPC:WDIETERICH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780246-0967
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780664/aaaacdnh.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e34b498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTO DOMINGO 3131, 78 KINGSTON 4533
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2371392
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EL CARIBE COMPLAINT AGAINST EMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PEPR, DR, EL CARIBE
To: KINGSTON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e34b498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014